TELL CONGRESS: ATTACKING SECTION 230 IS DANGEROUS

THANKS FOR SIGNING THE PETITION!

Please consider sharing this page with your friends and family.

SHARE

DONATE

LEARN MORE

WHY IS EVERYONE TALKING ABOUT SECTION 230?

Free speech is under attack. Trump is suing **journalists** for unfavorable reporting, investigating companies that have **DEI programs**, and trying to deport green card holders for **protesting** against the genocide of Palestinians. Section 230 is a shield against efforts to crush online dissent. But Congress wants to rip it away in the name of fighting Big Tech while

refusing to embrace the policies that would actually address the harm caused by these companies. Let's be clear: Repealing Section 230 would give Trump and his oligarch buddies even more power to censor the Internet and consolidate authoritarian control.

Meaningful policy solutions need to strike at the root causes of Big Tech's harms: monopoly power, data harvesting and abuse, and algorithmic manipulation. But instead, Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act has become an increasingly popular scapegoat for lawmakers who want to be seen to fight Big Tech. This widely misunderstood but crucially important law essentially allows ordinary people to have a voice on the Internet. Many proposed changes to Section 230 would do enormous harm to vulnerable communities, undermine human rights, and utterly fail to address the legitimate problems with Big Tech companies like Facebook, Amazon, and Google.

This website attempts to clear up some of the most common misconceptions about Section 230. Tell your lawmakers to read it before they change a law they don't understand. We cannot afford to open the floodgate of government and private censorship while our society is on the verge of fascist takeover.

FAQ

WHAT DOES SECTION 230 MEAN FOR YOU?

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF SECTION 230 CHANGED FROM ITS CURRENT FORM?

While Trump has called for a repeal of Section 230, most lawmakers just say they want to change it. But even minor tweaks to the existing rule can have enormous consequences for online free speech. Trump clearly intends to use Section 230 reform as an opportunity for censorship. Even without government intervention, websites would be unwilling to host user generated content because of the constant fear of lawsuits. Only the biggest of Big Tech companies like Meta and Google could hope to maintain platforms in a world without Section 230, because they could afford armies of lawyers and content moderators to remove content–legal, free speech–and avoid liability. Smaller platforms, like Bluesky, will simply be sued out of existence.

Content moderation should be based on the needs of online communities and based on human rights principles, not fear of lawsuits. Without 230, platforms will have the wrong incentives in place and will be unwilling to host your opinions because it allows them to avoid legal challenges. Research shows that the 230 provision has been **beneficial** for fostering a diversity of platforms and

content – exactly as the authors originally intended it to be.

Section 230 doesn't just apply to "Big Tech," as some lawmakers seem to think. It protects user generated speech and content on smaller platforms like Discord, Reddit, Patreon, and Etsy, as well as the comments sections of local newspapers, a local library's message board – literally anywhere that people can express themselves online. Section 230 is especially important for protecting the speech and organizing efforts of marginalized people, who have been frequently targeted by law enforcement and have had their speech suppressed by corporations. If Section 230 were weakened, platforms would be unwilling to host, for example, videos of Israeli war crimes in Gaza or posts critical of Elon Musk and Donald Trump.

ARE SOCIAL MEDIA COMPANIES PLATFORMS OR PUBLISHERS?

BUT ISN'T SECTION 230 WHAT ALLOWS BIG TECH TO HOST HATE SPEECH WITH IMPUNITY?

BUT DOESN'T SECTION 230 ENABLE INTERNET CENSORSHIP?

HASN'T SECTION 230 BEEN AMENDED BEFORE? WHAT HAPPENED THEN?

SO WHAT SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT BIG TECH?

FIGHT FOR THE FUTURE

FOR PRESS INQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT US AT:
(508) 474-5248 OR PRESS@FIGHTFORTHEFUTURE.ORG

ALL OTHER INQUIRIES, CONTACT:
TEAM@FIGHTFORTHEFUTURE.ORG